

# AGENT SALE BUILT INTO ITS PRICES



Eugene Lipinski (left), Jeromy Irons, Eugene Haczekiewicz and Jiri Stanislav appear in "Moonlighting," which strongly

details the plight of four Polish construction workers in England.

the movies  
**Louise Snider**

## Workers create their own prison in 'Moonlighting'

"Moonlighting" will be shown at Detroit Film Theatre at 7 and 9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 6 and 8:30 p.m. Sunday at the Detroit Institute of Arts auditorium. For ticket information, call 832-2730.

"Moonlighting" (PG) is a powerful film that draws its strength from intense simplicity and understatement. It concentrates on the situation of four Polish construction workers temporarily stranded in London when martial law was declared in Poland in December 1981.

They were sent to England by their bureaucratic boss who wanted his London refuge completely re-modeled. By illegally sending Polish workers to do the job and paying them in zlotys, not pounds, he could save nearly 75 percent of what it would have cost him to hire English labor.

Of the workers, only Nowak, the foreman, speaks English. The role is a marked change for Jeromy Irons (last seen as an English gentleman in "The French Lieutenant's Woman" and "Bridges at Terenure") and further confirms his immense sensitivity and ability as an actor.

The three actors who appear with Irons as his crew are all Polish, and one of them actually was stranded in England when he arrived with a tourist group in December 1981. They contribute impressively to the film's strong sense of reality and surprising burst of rough humor.

THE CREATIVE FORCE behind "Moonlighting" was Jerzy Skolimowski who moved to England after beginning his film career in Warsaw. In writing the script and directing the film, he drew upon his own experiences as a Polish emigre.

The dialogue is sparse, and every word is important. A similar provocative economy is evident in the camera work of Tony Pierce Roberts, who photographed the television series "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy."

He captures the actions and gestures which are most revealing: the angry pace at which a man attacks his work, the long draw he takes on a cigarette, the way he lingers exhausted in a bathtub.

When we see the men stare wide-eyed at supermarket shelves laden with food or duck behind a car when they hear a police siren, we learn nearly everything we need to know about them.

We learn that they are willing to put up with intolerable conditions. They sleep on the floor of the cold house they are remodeling. They eat meager rations from tin cans. They work 18 to 21 hours a day, seven days a week. Their only break is Christmas day and Sunday mornings when they go to church. Nowak begrudges them even that. He would prefer they never leave the house until they are ready to return home.

They readily accept these miserable conditions and their confinement. Why are they so uncomplaining? Is democracy a state of mind as well as a form of government? In England, they live as if in a hostile environment, and Nowak, their supervisor, becomes their dictator.

HE IS THE MOST educated, the most skilled and the most affected by the experience abroad. Suspensions and fears that he already harbors are intensified. He becomes paranoid. He becomes a shoplifter and a thief in order to stretch the inadequate funds he was given for expenses.

And in the age-old rationale of authoritarians, he decides that he knows what is best for his men. Thus he hides from them knowledge about the military coup that has taken place in their absence and the declaration of martial law.

The men return to their own country, richer in goods but not in spirit, having managed to build their own prison while abroad.

## what's at the movies

**BEST FRIENDS (PG).** When marriage comes in the door, friendship goes out the window in this romantic comedy with Burt Reynolds and Goldie Hawn as a couple of screenwriters who work well together until they get married.

**THE CHOSEN (PG).** Dramatization of Chaim Potok's novel about father-son relationships, the interlocking lives of two Jewish friends and the faith that divides and unites them.

**THE DARK CRYSTAL (PG).** An adventure-fantasy by the creators of the Muppets features strange, elf-like creatures caught up in a struggle between the forces of good and evil in a setting that resembles J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle Earth.

**EATING RAOUL (R).** Deadpan dialogue and "sassy" surroundings set the tone for this bizarre comedy about a stuffy couple who

come up with an outrageous plan for bankrupting a restaurant.

**48 HOURS (R).** Action drama with comic flair features Nick Nolte and Eddie Murphy as a white cop and a black cop who are forced to work together to track down two killers.

**GANDHI (PG).** Richard Attenborough's epic film following an Indian lawyer's transformation into one of the world's great men of peace. Stars Ben Kingsley in the title role of the loved spiritual and political leader.

### MOVIE RATING GUIDE

- G General audiences admitted.
- PG Parental guidance suggested. All ages admitted.
- R Restricted. Adult must accompany person under 18.
- X No one under 18 admitted.



Sophie (Meryl Streep) and Nathan (Kevin Kline) are passionately in love in "Sophie's Choice."

## at your leisure

### • CHILDREN'S HOUR

Lillian Hellman's melodrama "The Children's Hour" will open a four-week run at Meadow Brook Theatre at 8:30 p.m. Thursday on the Oakland University campus near Rochester. Performances continue through Feb. 20. Linda Gehring and Bethany Carpenter will play the two slandered teachers, who are victims of a lie by a malicious student, played by Meadow Brook newcomer Anne-Catharine O'Connell. The student's influential grandmother will be portrayed by Meadow Brook favorite Jeanne Arnold. Terence Kilburn, Meadow Brook's artistic director, will stage "The Children's Hour." For ticket information call the box office at 377-3300.

### • TRAVEL FILM

"Beautiful Switzerland" will be presented at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday

as part of the 1982-83 Travel Film Series season at The Community House, Baiter and Townsend, Birmingham. Phil Walker, traveling photographer, will narrate his film. Tickets at \$3.75, \$3 for senior citizens (60 years or older) and high school students, are available in advance or at the door. For further information call 644-5832.

### • ATTIC THEATRE

"Willing," by Ann Arbor playwright Simone Press, is being played at the Attic Theatre, 525 E. Lafayette at Beaubien in Detroit's Greektown. The play is the first production in the New Playwrights Forum Series. New plays in the series are being presented in the form of script-in-hand or memorized stage readings and run approximately one per month through June. Tickets at \$3 are available at the door.

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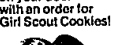
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## celebrate

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